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EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING CIA'S LANGUAGE PROGRAM

1. AMENDMENT TO FOREIGN SERVICE ACT

On 10 September 1959 the Senate passed (by voice vote) the "omnibus" amendment to the Foreign Service Act (S-2633). Included in its provisions are the following sections:

(a) "Policy Sec. 509"

"It is the policy of the Congress that chiefs of mission and Foreign Service officers appointed or assigned to serve the United States in foreign countries shall have, to the maximum practicable extent, among their qualifications, a useful knowledge of the principal language or dialect of the country in which they are to serve, and knowledge and understanding of the history, the culture, the economic, and political institutions, and the interests of such country and its people."

(b) "Foreign Language Knowledge Prerequisite to Assignment Sec. 578"

"The Secretary shall designate every Foreign Service Officer position in a foreign country whose incumbent should have a useful knowledge of a language or dialect common to such country. After December 31, 1963, each position so designated shall be filled only by an incumbent having such knowledge: Provided, that the Secretary or Deputy Under Secretary for Administration may make exceptions to this requirement for individuals or when special or emergency conditions exist. The Secretary shall establish foreign language standards for assignment abroad of officers and employees of the Service, and shall arrange for appropriate language training of such officers and employees at the Foreign Service Institute or elsewhere."

(c) "Relationship Between Promotions and Functional and Geographic Area Specialization Sec. 626"

"The achievement of the objectives of this Act requires increasing numbers of Foreign Service officers to acquire functional and geographic

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area specializations and to pursue such specializations for a substantial part of their careers. Such specialization shall not in any way inhibit or prejudice the orderly advancement through Class 1 of any such officer in the Foreign Service."

The House has not considered this Bill as yet and there has been no indication of its probable action. However, the Senate hearings generated considerable publicity and revealed a lively public interest in the problem. Especially active among the sponsors of the Bill was Senator Saltonstall.

2. OCB REPORT ON U. S. PERSONNEL OVERSEAS

The OCB in 1958, and again in 1959, stressed in its report on U. S. Personnel Overseas the importance of having "agencies concerned with language training strengthen their facilities for such training."

3. STATE DEPARTMENT ACTIONS

In November 1956 the Secretary of State established the policy that each Foreign Service officer "will be encouraged to acquire a 'useful' knowledge of two foreign languages, as well as sufficient command of the language of each post of assignment to be able to use greetings, ordinary social expressions," etc. The acquisition of a "useful" knowledge of French, German or Spanish is expected of every FSO by 1962 (or within 5 years of appointment). And officers who fail to measure up will find their advancement blocked (FS Cir. #227, 16 Aug 57). "Acquisition of a second foreign language most appropriate to the officer's area of development or of most assistance to him in his functional specialization will be encouraged."

4. REPORT OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

In the spring of 1959, a subcommittee headed by Senator Humphrey of the Senate Committee on Government Operations conducted a study of the Federal Government's foreign language training programs. In the foreword to the subcommittee report (#153, 7 Apr 59) Senator Humphrey said:

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"It is time we give full recognition to the indisputable fact that foreign language training is indispensable to our military effort, to our diplomatic successes, to our overseas economic programs, and, without question, the key to our ability to win friends throughout the world. It is high time that we do something about it."

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	<u>No. of Students</u>					<u>No. of Languages</u>			
	FY	57	58	59	60*	57	58	59	60
<u>INTERNAL</u>									
Directed									
Full Time		35	51	73	48	7	6	8	6
Part Time		374	296	402	273	12	12	18	13
Voluntary			502	704	478		14	19	12
<u>EXTERNAL</u>									
Full Time									
U. S.		30	59	45	13		20	14	8
Overseas		10	11	12	7		4	5	4
Part Time									
U. S.		87	54	78	10		15	22	4
Overseas			346	698	(incomplete)		24	17	
TOTAL		536	1,309	2,012	829				

*Figures for '60 include a small number of dependants

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